

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 4

Introduced by Assembly Member Beall

January 18, 2007

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 4—Relative to child support collection fees.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 4, as introduced, Beall. Child support: fees.

This measure would request the United States Congress to repeal provisions of federal law imposing a \$25 annual fee for each family which has not received specified public assistance if the state provides child support collection services and collects at least \$500 in child support on its behalf.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 2005 the United States Congress passed the
2 Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and President Bush signed it into
3 law on February 8, 2006, (Public Law No. 109-171); and
4 WHEREAS, The act contained several provisions that changed
5 how states administer the Title IV-D program of the Social Security
6 Act, including a provision that imposes a mandatory annual fee of
7 twenty-five dollars (\$25) for each family which has not received
8 assistance from the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy
9 Families (TANF) program if the state provides child support
10 collection services and collects at least five hundred dollars (\$500)
11 in child support on behalf of that family; and
12 WHEREAS, The provision to impose the mandatory fee for
13 these cases took effect on October 1, 2006; and

1 WHEREAS, California's Title IV-D Child Support Program
2 collected over two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) in 2005 on
3 behalf of approximately 1.8 million children and families; and

4 WHEREAS, The twenty-five dollar (\$25) fee imposed on the
5 states by the federal government, if passed on to the family by the
6 state, will constitute a financial barrier to a parent who desires to
7 use the child support collection services of the state's Title IV-D
8 program; and

9 WHEREAS, Because of the economic importance to a family
10 in receiving child support owed, there should be minimal barriers
11 to using child support collection services; and

12 WHEREAS, Nearly 70 percent of all child support collected
13 goes directly to support families and their children, thereby
14 reducing their dependency on public assistance; and

15 WHEREAS, Automation and accounting costs to collect the
16 twenty-five dollar (\$25) fee may offset any potential revenue the
17 federal government may hope to receive through imposition of the
18 fee; and

19 WHEREAS, Because the federal government has provided states
20 with four different options as to how the fee may be imposed, the
21 fee does not support uniform application of the federal Title IV-D
22 program; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
24 *California, jointly*, That the United States Congress is hereby
25 requested to repeal the provisions of law imposing a twenty-five
26 dollar (\$25) annual fee for each family which has not received
27 assistance from the TANF program if the state provides child
28 support collection services and collects at least five hundred dollars
29 (\$500) in child support on behalf of that family; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
31 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
32 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
33 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
34 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
35 States.